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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 19 May 1949

SUBJECT Earthquake in Ashkhabad, October 1948

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1A
ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) *cu*

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]
25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

RETAIN OR DESTROY

25X1X

25X1X

Comment: The following information was requested [REDACTED] who was in Ashkhabad during the earthquake, in order to learn what emergency measures are taken during an unforeseen disaster in that area.

25X1X

1. [REDACTED] states that all buildings in Ashkhabad were completely destroyed by the earthquake of October 1948, with the exception of the three-story structures housing the bank and the MVD. Four electric plants were destroyed.

25X1X

2. [REDACTED] three days after the earthquake, and states that there was no service of water, lights, radio broadcasting, or telephone. The local paper, Rabochi Klass, was moved to Tashkent because the plant had been destroyed. It was reported in the local newspaper that electricity and radio broadcasting were restored in eight days. [REDACTED] doubts this statement, because the paper also stated that the city was furnishing its own bread in two days at a time when two trains daily from Krasnovodsk were carrying bread to the destroyed city.

25X1X

3. The MVD took complete charge of rescue work. All living inhabitants, including women and children, were mobilized under MVD supervision. They were given the status of members of the armed forces. Armed guards prevented them from leaving the city.

4. Four ministers, including the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Economy, and the Minister of Communications of the Turkmen Republic, were reportedly killed. Many Turkmen railway officials attending a conference in the city also died.

5. Pravda reported that 350,000 people were killed in the vicinity of Ashkhabad; but the local paper stated that 450,000 died. The director of the local paper and the writer of the report were both sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for disagreement with Pravda.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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Next Review Date: 2008 CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

DECIA/ASIA/D

CLASS. CONFIDENTIAL TO: IS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Date: MAY 16 BY: 013

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